(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Preference of private schools to Government schools

1442.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government schools are dysfunctional and chaotic, the parents prefer to send their children to private schools and the children in the 6-14 age group are joining private schools, rather than those run by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the teacher absenteeism in Government schools ranges from 20 to 57 per cent in different States and the country's investment in education has increased with failed delivery system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of education in Government schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, being implemented in partnership with the States, seeks *inter-alia* to improve the quality of education in elementary schools through several interventions which, *inter-alia*, include recruitment of 9.09 lakhs additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, distribution of free text-books for primary and upper primary classes, remedial teaching for weaker students, regular academic support through Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and Cluster Resource Centers (CRCs) and monitoring and evaluation of learning outcomes. As per an independent study conducted in the academic year 2006, the absence rate in 20 States was 18.3% and 19.5% for primary and upper primary schools, respectively. As per data of 2007-08 published under District Information System for Education (DISE) 81.6 % of total enrolment in classes I - VIII is in Government and Government aided schools.

Redesign of National Literacy Mission

1443.SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has redesigned the National Literacy Mission to check relapse into illiteracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target set under the National Literacy Mission during the last few years has been achieved;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the extent to which redesigning of the Mission is going to achieve the objective of full literacy in the country?